



**MURRAY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## New MSU president selected



Dr. Robert (Bob) Davies was named Murray State University's 13th president. He is currently the president of Eastern Oregon University. Davies received a bachelor of science in management from the University of Nevada at Reno, a master of business administration in finance and marketing from the University of Oregon, and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Davies has been president of Eastern Oregon University since 2009. Other positions served by Davies include vice president of university

relations with Indiana University of Pennsylvania, associate vice president for alumni relations and development with State University of New York at Buffalo, and executive director of the alumni association with Boise State University. Davies will begin his new duties on July 14. The Murray State board of regents also officially named Dr. Tim Miller the university's 12th president.

## Bill Nye joins list of well-known figures keynoting lecture series

Scientist, engineer, comedian, author and inventor Bill Nye the Science Guy was the featured speaker for the 2014 Murray State University Presidential Lecture Series. Nye has been a part of several award-winning shows, including the one that made him a household name, *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. He currently hosts *The 100 Greatest Discoveries* on the Science Channel and *The Eyes of Nye* on PBS. Nye followed his MSU appearance with an evolution debate the next day at Kentucky's Creation Museum.

## Large estate gift benefits scholarships

An approximate \$500,000 estate gift from the late Frank and Genevieve Warren of Graves County, Ky., will create scholarship endowments in the department of accounting and the department of management, marketing and business administration. Genevieve attended Murray State in the early 1940s.

## Wann featured in interview, HBO ad

Dr. Daniel Wann, a psychology professor, was featured in an interview on the CBC Radio Broadcast along with an HBO advertisement for *Real Sports* with Bryant Gumbel. Wann has been recognized for over two decades for his leading efforts on sport psychology. Since 1987, at the University of Kansas, he has been studying fans and why they act the way they do in their sports environment.

## New MSU Paducah Regional Campus highlighted

The official opening of the Murray State University Paducah Regional Campus was highlighted in a 30-minute program on WPSD Channel 6. The program covered the opening celebration of the new Crisp Center in Paducah and general information about MSU's Paducah Regional Campus. Digital media services, a unit of university communications at Murray State's main campus, produced the program.



## NetLab enhances virtual environment

Murray's Program of Distinction in Telecommunications Systems Management (TSM) invested nearly \$200,000 of external funding on advanced technology in its virtual classrooms by implementing NetLab's virtual environment. NetLab enables the TSM program to host actual IT equipment, virtual machines and lab content on the Internet to support online and on-campus students equally and provide an environment through which students may schedule and complete lab exercises for many of their TSM courses.

## Sivills receives professional certification

Catherine Sivills received her certification for the Public Information Officer training course from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Sivills is the assistant vice president for university communications and the public information officer (PIO) at MSU. The course is part of a tiered training approach for professionals in public information management roles specifically related to emergency situations and relaying information to the public.



## **Institutional advancement area picks up top awards**

Murray State's institutional advancement (IA) division was the recipient of nine CASE-Kentucky awards — one Grand, four Excellence and four Special Merit. IA units included were university communications, alumni and development. Winning entries included regular university publications such as *The Blue & Gold* magazine, *The Review* tabloid and the *Points of Pride* annual report, along with the *MSU Profile* used in the recent presidential search. Other successful entries were alumni's Tent City promotion, the *Roundabout U* video magazine, graphic design for stewardship publications and overall Best Practices in university communications.

## **Students "stage" violence**

Several students and one faculty member from the department of theatre spent Spring Break hitting, stabbing and sword fighting with one another. The department of theatre hosted an intensive master class in stage combat and theatrical violence, culminating in an adjudicated examination. Thirteen students took classes resulting in certificates of proficiency awarded by the Society of American Fight Directors. These certificates are the gold standard of theatrical violence and are recognized immediately on actor résumés, giving these students a special advantage in the professional world.

## **MLK Jr. remembered with a "Day of Service"**

A collaborative effort between multiple offices and individuals on and off campus turned into another fruitful Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. The day began with a community breakfast and a keynote address. Students, faculty, staff and community members then registered to take part in projects that included a cleanup at the LBL Homeplace, Weeks Center maintenance and more.

## **Miles receives Academic Fellow certification**

Dr. Sandy Miles, professor of management, was certified as an Academic Fellow through the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) in London, England. Specific areas of expertise noted were impact on institution, national HR profession and international HR profession.

## **"15 to Finish" promotion**

Murray State University has begun its efforts to promote the statewide "15 to Finish" campaign launched by the CPE that urges full-time college students to finish college faster by completing a full 15-credit schedule each semester to save time and money, and get into the workforce sooner.

## **Gantt contributes chapter to book**

Dr. James Gantt, director of the Center for Telecommunications Systems Management, participated in the recently published book, *Collaboration Systems: Concept, Value and Use*. Gantt's contribution includes a chapter, "GroupSystems in the U.S. Army," in which he discusses the use and development of GroupSystems, a collaborative tool used by the U.S. Army across a 20-year period, the success and failures of the system, and the role of GroupSystems in preparing for Y2K and army development for the war on terrorism.

## **"Outstanding" ensembles earn awards**

The MSU Jazz Orchestra and Blue Jazz Combo gave multiple performances at the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) Conference and the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival. To be invited to play at the KMEA Conference, ensembles must be selected through blind auditions judged by a committee of the leading music educators throughout the state. While at the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival (a national event), the MSU Jazz Orchestra and Blue Jazz Combo both earned "Outstanding" distinction awards. The Murray State Jazz Orchestra Band was named "Outstanding Big Band" at the festival. Several individuals earned citations for outstanding performances as well.

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**THE MURRAY STATE  
TRADITION**